



TIME STUDY REGARDING USE OF WILLIAMSON COUNTY VOTING SYSTEM

During five elections in 2022, a Williamson County poll watcher performed an unscientific – yet credible – study of how much time was required by voters at each step of the county’s voting system. To our knowledge, neither the Williamson County Election Commission (WCEC) – nor anyone else, for that matter – had bothered to undertake any such study, yet they freely talk about how quick and easy it is for voters to use the machines.

Times were taken at four different vote centers across the county during early voting in two elections, the August 4, 2022 state primary/county general election and the November 8, 2022 state general/municipal election in Williamson County.

- *Longview Recreation Center, July 26, 2022*
- *Nolensville Recreation Center, July 27, 2022*
- *Fairview Recreation Center, October 21, 2022*
- *Franklin Recreation Center, October 24, 2022*
- *Franklin Recreation Center, October 26, 2022*

The August 4th election included primary voting for the governor, US and State representatives and senator, county mayor, Board of Education and County Commissioner candidates, court judges and statewide judge retention decisions. The November 8th ballot included general votes for governor, US and State representatives and senator, county commissioners, Thompson Station mayor and aldermen, as well as four state constitutional amendments.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY VOTING EQUIPMENT TIME STUDY			
Time waiting to register		Time waiting for BMD	
Number of voters tracked	Average time	Number of voters tracked	Average time
64	3 minutes 30 seconds	35	4 minutes 39 seconds
Time at BMD filling out ballot		Time at tabulator dropping in ballot	
Number of voters tracked	Average time	Number of voters tracked	Average time
49	6 minutes 13 seconds	38	:07 seconds
Average time in vote center per voter: 14 minutes 12 seconds			

Summary

Using the ballot marking device (BMD) constituted the most time-consuming portion of the voting process. Because of the proven voter waiting line at the BMDs, which routinely caused the registration system to have to stop registering voters and back that line up as well, we believe this study shows that the BMDs are the problem when it comes to moving voters through the vote center. Because the WCEC isn’t willing to pilot test hand-marked paper ballots marked at a multitude of privacy booths, we do not

have a comparable time for the use of paper ballots. But voting system machine and process experts have studied this deeper as reports [here](#) and [here](#) prove.

How the study was conducted

A poll watcher at various vote centers would identify a voter as he/she approached the end of the registration line at a polling location and track how much time it took him/her to arrive at the registration desk. We did not track the amount of time it took to register the voter as that would seemingly be fairly consistent across all registrars. The watcher would then track how much time it took the voter to get to a ballot marking device (BMD). Then how much time it took him/her to mark the ballot at the BMD. Then how much time it took the voter to drop his/her ballot into the scanner/tabulator and the confirmation notice to appear on the screen. We did not time the wait time to get to the scanner/tabulator. Sometimes watchers would merely time one segment of the voting, thus accounting for the disparity in the number of voters tracked at each station. The times were then averaged using a web-based average time calculation tool.

The numbers account for times when there were long lines to vote and also when there were relatively few or no voters. It also accounts for voters who took a good bit of time to mark their ballots and others who took relatively little, implying some only wanted to vote in one race or issue. So, the times tracked is simply an indication of where the bottlenecks in the system are located. That turned out to be the BMDs.

We concluded that to speed up the voting and to make the process more cost-effective and certainly safer, the answer isn't to purchase more BMDs, but to jettison the BMDs altogether because of their [proven vulnerabilities](#) and [substitute hand-marked paper ballots](#) that are marked by voters at more privacy booths. Where there might be five BMDs in one vote center, the WCEC should substitute twice or three times that many privacy booths for easier, quicker and safer voter throughput. Studies such as [here](#) and [here](#) by experts have proven how vulnerable the BMDs are. [And hand-marked paper ballots are the method on which more than 77% of the United States votes.](#)

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